

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Lin on 07/29/2009.

Claim read as:

9. An optical device, comprising:

means for gradually changing a supply voltage of a light source of the optical device into a direction of a reference voltage level;

means for detecting light emission of the light source while the supply voltage is gradually changed into the direction of the reference voltage level;

means for determining that the light source is arranged in a first circuit configuration if no light emission of the light source is detected while the supply voltage is gradually changed into the direction of the reference voltage level, and for determining that the light source is arranged in a second circuit configuration different

Art Unit: 2828

from the first circuit configuration if the light emission of the light source is detected while the supply voltage is gradually changed into the direction of the reference voltage level and the first circuit configuration includes a PNP type circuit and the second circuit configuration includes an NPN type circuit configuration.

18. A method for operating an optical device, the method comprising the steps of:

gradually changing a supply voltage of a light source of the optical device into a direction of a reference voltage level;

measuring light emission of the light source while gradually changing the supply voltage into the direction of the reference voltage level;

if no light emission is measured during the measuring step, determining that the light source is arranged in a first circuit configuration;

if a light emission is measured during the measuring step, determining that the light source is arranged in a second circuit configuration different from the first circuit configuration and the first circuit configuration includes a PNP type circuit and the second circuit configuration includes an NPN type circuit configuration.

Cancel claims 13 and 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 18 recites a method for controlling a supply voltage of a light source and an electronic circuit for controlling a supply voltage of a light source structure including the specific structure limitation of *the first circuit configuration includes a PNP type circuit and the second circuit configuration includes an NPN type circuit configuration* which is neither anticipated or disclosed nor suggested in any piece of available prior art, which is neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record.

Claim 10 recites a method and apparatus for operating an optical device, structure including the specific structure limitation of *a second circuit configuration different from the first circuit configuration if the light emission of the light source is detected while the supply voltage is gradually changed into the direction of the reference voltage level*, which is neither anticipated or disclosed nor suggested in any piece of available prior art, which is neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2828

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DELMA R. FORDE whose telephone number is (571)272-1940. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MinSun O. Harvey can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DELMA R. FORDE/
Examiner, Art Unit 2828

/Minsun Harvey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2828